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Jun 10, 1999

PUB-NO: DE019753202A1
DOCUMENT-IDENTIFIER: DE 19753202 A1
TITLE: Recycling plant for scrap packaging

PUBN-DATE: June 10, 1999

INVENTOR-INFORMATION:

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APPL-NO: DE19753202
APPL-DATE: December 1, 1997

PRIORITY-DATA: DE19753202A (December 1, 1997)

INT-CL (IPC): B03 B 9/06; B07 B 4/00; B07 B 7/00; B07 C 5/34; B07 C 7/00; B07 B 1/18

EUR-CL (EPC): B03B009/06; B07B009/00, B29B017/02

ABSTRACT:

CHG DATE=19991002 STATUS=N>Plant for sorting scrap packaging into recyclable components commences with a sieve(3) having holes 160-300 mm, preferably 180-250 mm, across for separating the initial mixture into coarse and fine groups. 100 mm long pipe connectors are connected to the outside of the holes. A manual separation of the resulting coarser material into useful recyclable and non-recyclable materials occurs at a visual inspection platform or belt(23). A magnet(4) extracts ferrous and material combinations containing ferrous metals from the fine material emerging from the sieve(3). Remaining fine material passes through a second sieve(6) with holes 50-160 mm, preferably 80-140 mm across to effect a further separation into fine and coarser materials. The second sieve(6) has similar pipe connectors to the first sieve(3). Non-ferrous metals are separated from the resulting fine material by a non-ferrous metal separator(17) and the remaining fine material is divided by a further separator(20) into lighter materials comprising mixed plastics, especially films and heavier materials. One or more automatic sorting units(21) sort this heavier material into individual components, e.g. polypropylene(PP), polystyrene(PS), polyethylene terephthalate(PETP), polyvinyl chloride(PVC), card from drinks containers and biologically decomposable material. Coarser materials from the sieve(6) pass to a separator(7) from which the heavier material group is supplied to an automatic sorting unit(9) for separation into non-recyclable and recyclable materials. Recyclable material is subsequently split into individual material types by one or more automatic sorting units(10). Lighter material from the separator(7) is manually or automatically sorted into paper and cardboard at an inspection platform or belt(14).